

April 26, 2019

The Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy  
Governor, State of Alaska  
550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Governor Dunleavy:

We write in response to your letter to President Donald J. Trump dated March 1, 2019 regarding the President's visit to Alaska in February and your desired outcomes for the state of Alaska. In your letter you assert that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service career employees undermined seismic work and "are working daily to undermine the lease sale" in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. As a former Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the immediate past Regional Director for Alaska, we are deeply troubled by your disparagement of our former colleagues at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Those accusations are unfair and untrue.

In our collective 58 years working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we worked with, led and came to deeply respect a career workforce who were dedicated to public service, committed to the agency's mission and respectful of political leadership. Fish and Wildlife Service employees understand and respect that every 4-8 years a new Administration will be elected, with differing priorities and interpretations of law. The job of a Service staffer is to implement those policies and interpretations of law, to the best of their abilities, keeping in mind the overall mission of the Service. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge 1002 area lease sales and seismic testing pose significant environmental issues affecting the habitat and species that rely upon the Arctic refuge, but we have full faith and confidence in the Fish and Wildlife Service's Alaska staff to do their jobs capably and professionally.

We ask that you retract these harmful and unfair statements regarding career Service staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamie Rappaport Clark".

Jamie Rappaport Clark  
President and CEO, Defenders of Wildlife  
Former Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1997-2001

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey L. Haskett".

Geoffrey L. Haskett  
President, National Wildlife Refuge Association  
Former Regional Director, Alaska, 2008-2016